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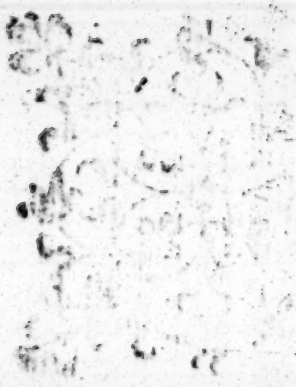
THE DECLARATION

OF DIVERS WELL-AFFECTED INhabitants of the Cities of London and Weſtminſter, Borrough of Southwark, Tower Hamblets, and parts adjacent.

SHEWING THEIR RESOLVTIONS TO joyn with the Army under the Command of his Excellency Thomas *Lord* Fairfax; *for the eſtabliſhing of a ſafe and Well-grounded Peace, with the juſt Rights and Priviledges of the Subject.*

LONDON,
Printed for *R. Baliffe*, neer Temple Barre. 1648.



THE

DECLARATION

OF DIVERS WELL-AFFECTED INHABITANTS of the Cities of London and Westminster, Borrough of Southwark, Tower Hamblets, and parts adjacent.

THe apprehension of the sadness of these times (we conceive) may justly put us upon doing somthing for our own and Posterities happinesse hereafter: especially considering that they who should have been the means of our welfare were the chief instruments of our woe.

The Parliament at their first sitting promised us fair, and therefore it was that we aided them to keep their power so long as they did: but now to our sorrows we find fair promises to be but their ladder to climb to greatnesse with. We all know, they are but the publick servants, imployed by the People (their Masters) for the regulation of such abuses as by the age of Time are crept into the Common wealth; and yet insteed thereof they have rather sought to bring in new Corruptions, than expel old ones: And that they might the better effect it, they Voted and kept a Treaty with the King, that thereby themselves might have sate in an everlasting warm seat, and haveing had C. R. to their Papers, would the better have

bound the Peoples hands behind them, that ſo they might have been wholy uncapable of acting any thing contrary to their greatneſſe.

But yet leſt this deſigne should not take if the preſent Army on foot kept up, They Voted the Armies disbanding, before they had done the work that they raiſed them for: But the Army being more wiſe, and ſeeing their Plot, refuſed disbanding till things were better ſetled, and themſelves in a capacity of freedom and ſafety for what they have done, and (as they juſtly may) ſtand upon the bargain they made with the Parliament, *viz.* Not only to indempnifie them for what they have done, or granting an Act of Oblivion; but alſo to ſettle the Kingdom and People in a well grounded Peace for preſent, and eſtablish a way for their defence, againſt all Tyrants and Tyrannie for future.

It is eaſy to be beleev'd that if the King had prevailed he would have made good his promiſes to his Cavileers; for experience tells us how his Souldiers when they got the upper hand over any place, cram'd their Snap-ſacks with plunder, and put good clothes on their backs, (though contrary to Articles of Surrender.) When as our Party when they have conquered, have not been ſuffered to ſpeak the Truth concerning the Kings illegal proceedings, without venturing their lives to the Oath of a ſingle Cavileer: the Laws of the Land, and malignancy of the Judges, frequently taking place againſt them, in ſuch caſes.

Theſe things we ſee, and conſidering the heavy burthen the Kingdom lies under, by Exciſe, Taxes, Tythes, Free-Quarter, &c. We cannot but declare,

1. To joyn with the Army in their juſt proceedings a-

gainſt

gainſt all unjuſt perſons whatſoever, who have betrayed the truſt repoſed in them, and invited in the Scots, and raiſed other forces againſt the Kingdom.

2. That this Parliament be diſſolved, before the laſt day of April next, 1649. And that a conſtant ſucceſſion of Parliaments be ſetled, to be choſen of courſe by the people, at a fixed day every year or two as ſhall be thought fit: and they be made accomptable of their Stewardship, to the next ſucceeding Parliament.

3. That all Statutes, Laws, and Acts of Parliament run only in the Name of the Commons of England aſſembled in Parliament.

4. That no perſon that hath had a hand in the firſt or ſecond war, be choſen, or have a Voice in the choice of any Parliament Member, or other Officer of the State whatſoever.

5. That no Parliament Magiſtrate, or other perſon whatſoever, have power to make or execute any compulſive Law, touching matters of Conſcience and Religion; but that all civil people ſubject themſelves to the Laws of the Common wealth, though of ſeveral opinions, (not being deſtructive to the State) be protected from all violence and injury.

6. That none be forced to pay Tythes; but that a more conſcionable maintainance for the publick Miniſtry be provided.

7. That

7. That Excise upon all In-land commodities be taken off; and that no Taxes or Cesments be levied upon the People, but by the old way of Subsidies.

8. That all Monopolies yet remaining, be forthwith abolished.

9. That all Parliament Members, Committees, Excise men, Sequestrators &c. be called to accompt for the monies of the State.

10. That all destitute Widdows, and poor Orphans, which have lost their Husbands and Parents,, and all Souldiers that have lost their limbs in the Parliaments service, be comfortably relieved, by way of constant stipend, and the children put to Trades.

11. That publick work-houses be erected, for prevention of beggars, vagabonds, and idle persons.

12. That a Trade of fishing upon the English coasts be setled by the State, for the good of the Common wealth.

13. That encouragement and protection be given to such as shall prosecute any Lawfull Charge or Impeachment of Treason or other Crime against any Member in Parliament; and that the Members in Parliament, without respect of Persons, be dis-robed of their Protection, and left lyable to the Law.

14. That

14. That the cruelties and extortion of Goalers be ſeverely provided againſt; and that for future no fees bee exacted from Priſoners: but that fitting accommodation both for lodging and dyet for them, and a ſufficient competency of livelyhood for Goalers at the publick coſt be provided.

15. That no man be kept in Priſon above a moneth; but in that ſpace to be brought to a Tryall, by a lawfull Jury of his equals; or elſe to be diſcharged of courſe.

16. That no man bee impreſſed to ſerve in the Warres.

17. That our Laws bee few and plain, free from all ambiguous meanings, and all in the English Tongue; and to bee digeſted and Printed in a Vollume; and one to bee provided to bee kept in every Church throughout the Land; and to be read over at ſeveral appointed Times and Seaſons, in open Congregation.

18. That all perſons ſtand alike lyable to the Lawes of the Land, in all caſes, both criminal and civil: and that all protections by any pretended Priviledge or Prerogative whatſoever, be declared Void, and of none effect.

We having conſidered theſe things, cannot conceive our

our ſelves in ſafetie unleſſe theſe or ſuch like Lawes be eſtabliſhed, for a certain unalterable Government, for the Nation to be regulated by. And therefore we do reſolve with our utmoſt vigor and force to oppoſe all ſuch perſons whatſoever that ſhall go about to hinder theſe our juſt undertakings; they being ſo reaſonable that (we know) no rational man (that hath but one drop of English bloud running in his veins) will bee againſt them.

FINIS.

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